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The Administrative Record Staff



ROCKY FLATS

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION

UPDATE



A PERIODIC UPDATE ON ROCKY FLATS CLEANUP • FEBRUARY 1992

New Landfill Proposed at RFP

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and EG&G are proposing to construct a new sanitary landfill at the Rocky Flats Plant (RFP) for disposal of solid sanitary waste produced on site. (Sanitary waste is ordinary trash that has not been contaminated by hazardous or radioactive materials.) This proposed landfill would provide sanitary landfill capacity for RFP for approximately 20 years.

The new landfill would have a capacity of approximately 800,000 cubic yards. It is anticipated that the landfill would receive about 660,000 cubic yards of waste and 150,000 cubic yards of daily cover material that would be applied to minimize wind dispersion, water infiltration, and burrowing of disease-carrying animals.

Only materials allowed under the State of Colorado Regulations Pertaining to Solid Waste Disposal Sites and Facilities would be accepted at the new landfill. Extensive waste sorting, inspection, and monitoring would prevent disposal of radioactive or hazardous material in this new landfill. Landfill material content would be recorded in logbooks.

Allowable wastes would include office trash, empty cans and containers, packaging materials, construction and demolition debris, and landscaping waste. Prohibited wastes would include radioactive wastes, hazardous chemicals, PCB-containing wastes, sanitary sewage sludge, metal sludge, batteries composed of either mercury or lead, fluorescent light bulbs, containers with free liquids (e.g., spray paint, oil cans), and untreated medical wastes.

The proposed 50-acre site for the new landfill is in an undeveloped area northwest of the main plant site in Jefferson

County, but within RFP's buffer zone. The site was selected based on favorable geological, topographical, and hydrological characteristics.

The new landfill would be constructed and operated to meet the regulatory requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Colorado Department of Health (CDH), and Jefferson County for solid waste disposal facilities.

To prevent and control generation of leachates (liquids that pass through solid wastes), the proposed landfill would be constructed in "cells." A fully-developed landfill would consist of four cells. Each cell would include a primary liner, a secondary composite liner, a leak detection system, a leachate collection system, a methane gas venting system, and a cap. The liner system would collect and control downward seepage of liquid during operational periods, while the cell caps would prevent surface water from entering the cells after closure. Environmental controls would include leak detection within the liner system, a leachate collection system, groundwater monitoring wells, and gas venting. Surface runoff from the landfill would be collected in an evaporation pond.

In addition, a one-story, approximately 11,000-square foot building would be constructed at the landfill. The building would have an office area, a storage area, and a garage area with a waste-sorting and a baling facility.

The present landfill, located in an undeveloped area north of the main plant site, is nearing capacity and cannot be expanded. The present landfill, which is part of Operable Unit 7, is being investigated for closure and cleanup. ■

The Permit Process

The first step in the process towards operating the proposed landfill is for DOE and EG&G to apply for a Certificate of Designation (CD) with Jefferson County.

RFP will submit a CD application to Jefferson County in 1992. CDH and Jefferson County will then review the application for technical quality. After this review, Jefferson County will hold formal public meetings with both the County Planning Department and the Board of County Commissioners. There will be an opportunity for the public to comment on the proposed landfill following this review. If the request is approved, construction of the RFP sanitary landfill would begin in February 1994, with operations commencing in March 1995.

Pre-application information meetings were hosted by Jefferson County in December 1991 and January 1992 to present the proposal to the public and receive initial comments.

Any questions about the proposed landfill can be addressed to Mark Loye, Jefferson County Aggregate Coordinator, at 303-271-5806 or Tonya Morrow, EG&G Community Relations, at 303-966-6437. A formal public comment period will be held in 1993. ■

ADMIN RECORD

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Environmental Evaluations

As part of the remedial investigation workplans for each operable unit (OU) at RFP, an environmental evaluation (EE) will be conducted to determine the effect of RFP activities on the plants, animals, and microorganisms within the property boundaries. Results of these studies will influence the eventual remedial action selected for each OU.

The EEs will vary slightly from site to site depending on the nature of each OU, but each EE will assess ecosystem, community and population impacts, and any critical habitats or endangered species affected by site contamination. An ecosystem consists of the living parts – “communities” of different “populations” (species) living together and interacting – plus the land and water (nonliving) components of an area.

The ecosystem approach initially addresses all ecosystem components, then progressively focuses on those aspects of the system potentially affected by contamination. Without the resulting chemical, ecological, and toxicological data, potential causes unrelated to the presence of contamination,

such as habitat alterations and natural variability, cannot be isolated.

An annual monitoring program is being proposed that would provide long-term

time unrelated to operations at RFP and would allow for sitewide – as opposed to OU-specific – ecological characterization of RFP.

Initial EE field work for OU1 (881 Hillside) and OU2 (903 Pad) has already been completed, as has part of OU5 (Woman Creek Drainage) field work because OU5 overlaps with portions of OU1 and OU2. Field studies are followed by additional analysis and lab study before the final EEs can be completed. Results will be issued as part of the RCRA Facility Investigation/Remedial Investigation Report.

The EE workplans are prepared in conformance with the requirements of currently applicable legislation. Although a formal Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) process has not yet been initiated at RFP, EE workplans are designed to be consistent with the NRDA process to the maximum extent possible. Information from the EEs will assist in determining the form, feasibility, and extent of remediation necessary for each OU in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). ■

Wildlife at RFP

Restricted RFP lands provide habitat to a number of animal and plant species that thrive in the overlapping of the high mountain and high plains ecosystems. Large portions of the buffer zone have never been plowed and other portions have not been grazed by domestic livestock for many years; as a result, these areas host a number of native prairie plants. Two thousand years ago when water was more abundant, the local grasslands contained many chest-high prairie grasses; but as the climate dried, tall grasses gave way to the now-common short grasses. Because of the protected location of RFP at the convergence of the mountains and the plains, elements of the tallgrass prairie have survived.

Not only does the RFP buffer zone host a diverse and rich plant community, it supports an active breeding population of approximately 120 mule deer and 20 white tail deer, coyotes, owls, and raptors, including the ferruginous hawk.

The RFP buffer zone also hosts plant and animal species that are found only in diminished numbers throughout the country. The Preble's meadow jumping mouse has been found living in the RFP buffer zone, and the forktipped three-awn grass has also been noted in disturbed areas at RFP.

These and other species are closely studied as part of the environmental evaluations and other biological assessment programs being conducted at RFP and reveal the unique combination of plant and animal life thriving within the protection of the RFP buffer zone. ■

ecological data. Such data would allow for better assessment of natural changes over

time unrelated to operations at RFP and would allow for sitewide – as opposed to OU-specific – ecological characterization of RFP.

Update on PPCD

The *Interagency Agreement* due date for the *Plan for Prevention of Contaminant Dispersion (PPCD)* has been changed. The proposed *Final PPCD* was submitted to EPA in December 1991, but EPA requested that some additional changes be made, so the *PPCD* will be resubmitted to EPA in February 1992. EPA will then have approximately 30 days to review the *PPCD*.

The *PPCD* addresses the potential release of contaminants into the air from remedial investigation and interim remedial action activities at RFP. The primary objective of the *PPCD* is to provide a guide for safe operations to protect the public and the environment from further contamination that could arise from cleanup activities. ■

New Documents

- EG&G Rocky Flats Plant Environmental Restoration Monthly Reports for November 1991 and December 1991
- *Final Rocky Flats Plant Community Relations Plan* [for the] *Environmental Restoration Program*
- *Final Responsiveness Summary for the Rocky Flats Plant Community Relations Plan* [for the] *Environmental Restoration Program*
- *Rocky Flats Plant Site Environmental Report - January through December 1990*
- *A Closer Look at Rocky Flats*
- *Draft Environmental Assessment* [for the] *Standley Lake Diversion Project*

Computerized Chemical Control System

RFP is in the process of establishing a computerized chemical control system (CCS). This plantwide database is expected to provide chemical inventory information from all plant buildings by mid 1992.

In the past, RFP had little dedicated support for the maintenance of chemical inventory data. This situation changed in April 1991 when the Chemical Tracking & Control Systems group in the Environmental Management Department assumed responsibility for designing, implementing, and maintaining the CCS. The group will also provide related training and hardware support. By maintaining a centralized CCS, RFP benefits from the following: improved accuracy and reliability of chemical data, greater ability to evaluate hazard and

waste minimization efforts, and access to Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs).

MSDSs are information sheets provided by chemical manufacturers. These sheets include product information such as its chemical and physical properties, storage requirements, first aid, and handling requirements. RFP is required to have an MSDS for every hazardous chemical on plant site.

Information supplied by the CCS will assist RFP in meeting the requirements of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Hazard Communication Standard, and many other regulations. It will also be essential for the eventual decommissioning of many plant buildings. ■

RFP Prepares Draft Historical Release Report

As required by the *Interagency Agreement*, DOE has prepared a Draft Historical Release Report (HRR) and forwarded it to CDH and EPA for their comments. The HRR lists all spills, releases, and incidents involving hazardous substances at RFP from 1952 to 1990, as identified by an extensive record review.

The HRR identifies 74 Potential Areas of Concern (PACs) that may need further investigation. Some of these PACs may be added to the list of 178 Individual Hazardous Substance Sites identified in earlier studies and scheduled for cleanup. Also identified were 19 Potential Incidents of Concern that occurred between 1956 and 1990. These incidents involved the release of hazardous materials that could not be accurately located because of insufficient information. Almost half of the incidents were releases of oil or gasoline. Although only limited information is now available, DOE believes that none of the PACs or incidents threaten human health or the environment.

EPA and CDH will prepare comments on the HRR over the next few months. The last draft is due to CDH and EPA on June 3, 1992. After their final reviews and comments are incorporated, the final report will be issued and placed in the public reading rooms, probably in the fall of 1992. A public information meeting to discuss the plan will be scheduled at that time. ■

Administrative Records

Every Superfund site must make an administrative record available for public review. The administrative record includes all documents that were used in the evaluation and selection of a specific response action at each OU.

An administrative record includes an index, information such as site investigation reports and sampling plans, policy and guidance documents, items related to public participation (Community Relations Plan, news releases, transcripts of public meetings), enforcement documents, decision documents (Responsiveness Summary, Record of Decision, any modifications), correspondence between the regulatory agencies (EPA and CDH) and DOE, and other information such as interagency agreements. These documents are added to the administrative record as they are issued to update the information on file.

Microfiche copies of the administrative records for each OU at RFP will be placed in the information repositories listed on page 4. A paper copy of the OU4 (Solar Evaporation Ponds) Interim Remedial Action administrative record has been placed in each information repository until the OU4 files can be microfiche. ■

Changes To Interagency Agreement Deliverable Dates

Task	Original Date	Revised Date
Submit OU5 (Woman Creek Drainage) Final Phase I RFI/RI* Workplan to EPA and CDH	August 30, 1991	December 9, 1991
Submit OU6 (Walnut Creek Drainage) Final Phase I RFI/RI* Workplan to EPA and CDH	September 16, 1991	December 15, 1991

The IAG outlines a framework of procedures, responsibilities, and schedules for cleaning up hazardous and radioactive waste at RFP. Original due dates may be changed as cleanup progresses if EPA, CDH, and DOE concur on the changes.

*RCRA Facility Investigation/Remedial Investigation

Public Invited to Use Reading Rooms

The following reading rooms contain current information, technical reports, and reference documents on environmental restoration at the Rocky Flats Plant:

Rocky Flats Public Reading Room*
Front Range Community College Library
3645 West 112th Avenue
Level B, Center of Building
Westminster, Colorado 80030
303-469-4435

Hours: Mon. – Tue. 12:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Wed. 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Thur. – Fri. 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

EPA Superfund Records Center*
999 18th Street, Suite 500
Denver, Colorado 80202-2405
303-293-1807

Hours: Mon. – Fri. 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

United States Department of Energy
Freedom of Information and Privacy Branch
Office
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585
202-586-6025

Hours: Mon. – Fri. 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
(Eastern time zone)

Rocky Flats Environmental Monitoring
Council*

1536 Cole Boulevard, Suite 325
Denver West Office Park, Building 4
Golden, Colorado 80401
303-232-1966

Hours: Mon. – Fri. 8:30 am – 5:00 pm

Colorado Department of Health*
Rocky Flats Program Unit
4210 East 11th Avenue, Room 420
Denver, Colorado 80220
303-331-4855

Hours: Mon. – Fri. 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

*Information Repository

Calendar of Events

Rocky Flats Environmental Monitoring Council Meeting (Tentative): 7:00 p.m., February 25, 1992, and March 31, 1992. Please call the Environmental Monitoring Council at 303-232-1966 to verify meeting date and location.

General Rocky Flats Plant Tours: February 10, 1992, and March 9, 1992. Please call 303-966-2011 one week in advance for reservations.

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